



## Education Takes Flight

Thirteen very enthusiastic classroom teachers attended the “Education Takes Flight” workshop held in conjunction with the 2007 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula, March 1-3. The teachers, who taught grades 5 through 12, came from both public and private schools in Missoula, Florence, Charlo, Polson, Thompson Falls, and Cascade.

One in-class activity illustrated how form follows function by comparing the shape of birds’ wings to airplane wings. This lesson was dramatically reinforced with a presentation by Kate Davis, executive director of Raptors of the Rockies, using a Peregrine Falcon, a Harris’ Hawk, and an owl.

Other classroom presentations included little known facts about the magnetic compass presented by Harry LaForge of Hoffman Pilot Center. A presentation by Don Lorenzen of EAA Chapter 517 covered how to choose a kit plane to build. Len Wheeler of the Helena FAA Flight Standards District Office provided an explanation of the controls of an airplane and an opportunity to fly a flight simulator.

After two fast-paced days of classroom activities giving the teachers opportunities to learn more about general aviation and how to incorporate aviation concepts, themes, and history into their current classroom curriculum, the group headed to the airport for introductory flights. Montana pilots Terry Miles, Steve Rossiter, John Seeberger, and Hank Galpin, who was flying a beautifully restored 1928 Travelair 6000, provided these flights.

MDT Aeronautics provided the teachers with scholarship assistance to attend this workshop, and continuing education or graduate credit was offered. In addition, Jeanne MacPherson, education chief for MDT Aeronautics, presented each teacher with a Montana Aeronautical Chart, a navigation plotter, an E6B-type flight computer, and other aviation education materials for use in the classroom.

This year’s workshop facilitator was Sherry Knight Rossiter, Ph.D., an ATP-rated pilot, flight instructor, and aviation educator. Judging by the verbal and written comments at the end of the course, this year’s workshop was a huge success.



*Sherry Knight Rossiter, Ph.D., workshop facilitator demonstrating lift to the teachers.*



*Kate Davis of Raptors of the Rockies and her owl compare wing shapes of birds to airplanes. Photography by Will Abbot, Abbot Aerial Photography.*

# Administrator's Column

**Legislature adjourns:** The 60<sup>th</sup> Montana Legislature adjourned Friday, April 27. As reported previously, MDT's three aviation bills passed both houses with ease: HB 122 extends the limit on leases at state-owned airports from ten years to 40 years; HB 126 eliminates the requirement that MDT set liability insurance rates for commercial air carriers; and HB 127 requires immediate deposit of fees paid to register aircraft. MDT also provided testimony in support of SB 318 – an extension of recreational use immunity providing limited liability to landowners who provide property for public use by aircraft. This bill also passed. MDT monitored a variety of other bills with a potential impact on aviation and airports, but these bills were not successful. These bills dealt with outdoor lighting, study of local government special purpose districts (airport authority), clarification of airport authority appointment procedures, ethanol production, amending group insurance for public employees, quasi-judicial board member payment, and others. Thanks to everyone who participated to protect and enhance aviation during the past legislative session.

**Senate version of reauthorization rumored to be released soon:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee leaders are planning to introduce a four-year FAA reauthorization bill. The bill, although in **DRAFT** form, is expected to include the following provisions: maintain the PFC cap at \$4.50; authorize AIP at \$3.8 billion in FY08; maintain 95 percent federal match for small airports; maintain \$150,000 non-primary entitlements (does not include the administration's proposal for tiered funding); a \$25 surcharge for air traffic control costs (piston-powered and turboprop aircraft operating under VFR would be exempt); increasing GA fuel tax from 21.8 cents/gallon to 49 cents/gallon; phase out the commercial jet fuel tax; authorize \$35 million for the small community air service development program, and more. The House version

that was expected to be proposed last month still has not been released. Stay tuned as the wheels of Congress continue to turn.

## **Aviation Alliance Across America**

**Launched:** the Alliance is a new, diverse coalition of aviation enthusiasts and professionals, local airports, civic organizations representing rural and agriculture voices, city, county and state officials, economic development entities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and others dedicated to protecting small and rural communities. The Alliance is also dedicated to modernizing America's air traffic control system to enhance safety, promote efficiency, and expand capacity in order to ensure all have access to air transportation. The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) is a founding member of the alliance and a member of the organization's executive committee. Check out the alliance's web site at [www.aviationacrossamerica.org](http://www.aviationacrossamerica.org).

**Air Service Update:** United Express will begin Saturday only, non-stop service to San Francisco this summer. It is projected to run from June 9 through September 1. More good news for Montana travelers!

**Summit Aeronautics Update:** Summit Aeronautics located on the Helena Airport has an interesting project underway. They are manufacturing very large stainless steel hinges (two per aircraft) that will be installed on giant 747 aircraft being modified to carry the fuselage and wings of the new 787. The 787 fuselage and wings will be transported from Japan and other countries where they are manufactured to Seattle where the aircraft will be assembled. The hinges will allow the entire tail assembly to open to load the 787 parts. The fuselage of the 747 is cut off at the floor level and a much larger "barrel" is installed to more than double the size of the interior of the aircraft. These parts have been on the milling machines for the past months, running 24/7 except for Christmas day.



## ***Montana and the Sky***

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Debbie K. Alke, Administrator

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## ***Montana and the Sky***

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# Calendar

**May 19** - EAA breakfast at Stevensville Airport, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For further information, contact Steve Rossiter at [SteveRossiterMT@aol.com](mailto:SteveRossiterMT@aol.com). This event will be held every third Saturday from April through October.

**May 24** – Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

**May 26-28** – Benchmark and Spotted Bear work sessions.

**June 1-3** - Piper Fabric Restoration Seminar, by Clyde R. Smith. Hosted and held at Aerotronics in Billings. For further information, phone Steve at (406) 259-5006 or email [steve@aerotronics.com](mailto:steve@aerotronics.com).

**June 2** – 5th Annual Settle Aviation MPA Fly In at Sunday Creek Airpark beginning at 10:00 a.m.. Steak fry, flour bombing. For further information, phone (406) 232-6926.

**June 2 – 3** - Montana Mountain Flying Rendezvous at the Townsend Airport. Vigilante and Southwest MPA Hangars hosting, Density Altitude and Mountain flying clinic, quality ground school, flight instruction and theodolite measurements, and great food! For further information, contact Bill Gallea at [billgallea@hotmail.com](mailto:billgallea@hotmail.com).

**June 4** - Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

**June 9** – Lewistown Airport Fly In Pancake Breakfast and Static Display – 7:00 a.m.. For further information, phone Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

**June 16-17** – Father's Day Fly In Sourdough Pancake Breakfast, Fort Peck Airport. Barbeque Saturday evening and pancakes Sunday morning. For further information, phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154 or email [hpb@nemotel.net](mailto:hpb@nemotel.net).

**June 16-17** – Father's Day Fly In, Twin Bridges Airport. Pig roast and pancake breakfast. More information on web site at [www.rubyvalleyaviation.com](http://www.rubyvalleyaviation.com).

**June 16-17** – Air Show, Baker Airport. Featuring Pietsch Air Shows and Gene Soucy Air Shows. Saturday barbeque at 5:30 p.m., dance at 8:00 p.m. in new hangar. Sunday, breakfast 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Air Show at 1:30 p.m.. For further information, contact Roger at [bakerair@midrivers.com](mailto:bakerair@midrivers.com) or phone (406) 778-3508.

**June 23** – “New” Plains Airport Fly-In Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For further information, phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or (406) 826-3055.

**June 23-24** – Meadow Creek work session.

**June 30** – North Central Hangar Fly In Breakfast and Big Boys Toy Show, Havre Airport. For further information, phone Darren Huestis at (406) 390-1255 or Bob Breum at (406) 265-7394.

**June 30 - July 1** - Fly In, Stevensville Airport. Breakfast both days. Barbeque Saturday afternoon/evening. For further information, contact Steve Rossiter at [SteveRossiterMT@aol.com](mailto:SteveRossiterMT@aol.com). The Pitstop's Grand Opening will be held in conjunction with the fly-in. The Pitstop will sponsor a live band and dance with finger food and beverage bar from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. on June 30.

**July 4** – Townsend Airport Legendary Forth of July Fiesta Breakfast. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Contact Karen or Neil Salmi for further information (406) 266-5400.

**July 14** – Del Bonita work session.

**July 20-22** – Staggerwing Fly In, Seeley Lake Airport (23S). For further information, [slk32190@blackfoot.net](mailto:slk32190@blackfoot.net)

**July 20-22** – Schafer Meadows work session.

**July 28-29**—Bozeman Air Show featuring the Blue Angels along with MiG Fury Fighters, World Parabolic Swoop Team, Greg Poe, Kent Pietsch and Jim Pietz.

**August 5** – Hysham Airport Dedication. Pancake Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Spot landing, flour bombing. For further information, contact Bob Miller (406) 342-5252 or email [bpmiller@rangeweb.net](mailto:bpmiller@rangeweb.net).

# Search & Rescue Training



*Jeanne MacPherson and Tim and Dottie Dwyer, air search coordinators for MDT Aeronautics Division, presented “Emergency location and the downed aircraft” at the Montana State Search and Rescue annual training weekend in Havre, on March 24. Members of the Montana State Search and Rescue unit practiced with the MDT Aeronautics’ direction finding equipment at the Havre airport as a part of their yearly training. Members used their skills to locate a practice transmitter that was planted in an aircraft inside a hangar at the Havre airport.*

# USAF Thunderbirds Fly Over NASA KSC



*USAF Thunderbirds first flight over NASA Kennedy Space Center in 31 years in preparation for World Space Expo on November 3-4, 2007. Photograph by TSgt Justin D. Pyle.*

# Stay Current on Regulations

*By Max Murphy, Aviation Support Officer*

As pilots, we become familiar with the FAR/AIM manuals out of necessity. There are many regulations that we may not even know about, however, they are necessary for air safety.

In Montana, with an increase in the number of cell phone and radio towers being erected and new home and business construction on the rise, Federal Aviation Regulations Part 77, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace, can become very important. Additionally, Federal Aviation Regulations Part 157 (Notice of Construction, Alteration, Activation, and Deactivation of Airports) along with the Advisory Circular on airport designs contain information critical to both developers and airport managers to keep both aviators and the general public safe. The latest Advisory Circular regarding Airport Design is AC 150/5300.

If you're anything like me, you probably prefer to do most of your navigating in the air. However, all of this, and much more valuable information is available by navigating the web at [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov). Remember, a good pilot is also a learning pilot!

# Montana Cadets Win Award At Regional Competition

Five cadets from Montana were honored at a regional U.S. Civil Air Patrol color guard and drill team competition held recently in Wyoming.

The cadets from the Missoula Composite Squadron represented the Montana Wing at the Rocky Mountain Region Color Guard and Drill Team competition, which was held at F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne on April 27-28. They competed against cadets from Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho.

The cadets competed in a head-to-head quiz bowl competition and a written exam testing their aerospace knowledge. They also had to demonstrate their physical fitness, pass inspection, and were judged in both indoor and outdoor drills by senior CAP officers and members of the F. E. Warren Air Force Base Honor Guard. At the Saturday evening awards banquet, the Montana cadets were presented with the Team Spirit trophy by Rocky Mountain Region Commander Col. Russell Chazell, in recognition of their friendly, upbeat nature and the competitive spirit they demonstrated during the weekend competition.



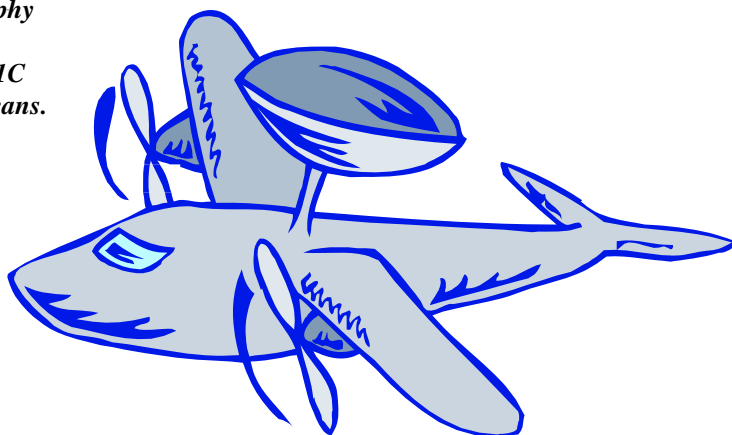
*Montana cadets undergoing inspection by members of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base Honor Guard.*



*Montana cadets and their leaders pose with the Team Spirit trophy they won at the CAP Rocky Mountain Region Color Guard and Drill Team Competition. Pictured left to right (Front Row) C/AIC Daniel Belanger, C/AMN Nicolas McKinney, C/AMN Sierra Beans. (Back Row) Maj. Kaye Ebel, C/SSgt Bentley Alsup, C/TSgt Christopher Brault, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Guy Powell.*

The members of the color guard team are Cadet Technical Sergeant Christopher Brault, Cadet Staff Sergeant Bentley Alsup, Cadet Airman First Class Daniel Belanger, Cadet Airman Nicholas McKinney, and Cadet Airman Sierra Beans. Accompanying the cadets to the competition were Maj. Kaye Ebel, Commander of the Missoula Composite Squadron, and 2nd Lt. Guy Powell, the squadron's Deputy Commander. Also on hand to support the cadets were Lt. Col. Pete Graf of Missoula, Vice Commander of the Montana Wing; Col. Martin Borque of Bozeman, past commander of the Montana Wing; and 1st Lt. Al Nash, Montana Wing Public Affairs Officer, from Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming.

The 250 officers and cadets of the Montana Wing of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief, and counter drug missions at the request of government or law enforcement agencies.



# Young Eagles Take to the Sky!



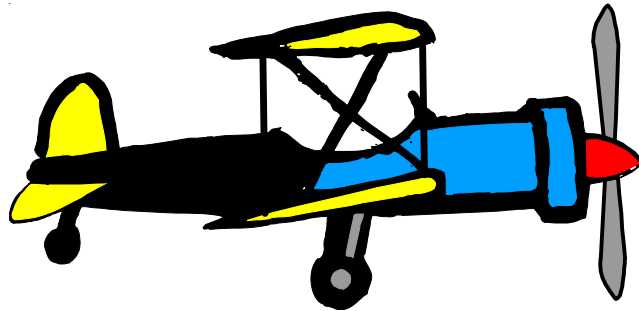
On May 4, Prairie Aviation located at the Glasgow Airport was the classroom for Glasgow and Nashua 8th graders. For more than 20 years the Glasgow pilots have been flying students as a part of an aviation career awareness program.

This year's students participated in an aviation navigation ground school presented by Jeanne MacPherson of MDT Aeronautics Division.

With their new awareness for runway alignment, terrain

avoidance, latitude, and longitude the students took to the skies. The volunteer pilots, Ken James, Bob Lipscomb, Lanny Hanson, Ronda and Leland Blatter, Steve Stanley, Joe Younkin, Joe Reyling, and Russ Dahl flew the students on a course to Fort Peck Dam and returned them to the Glasgow airport.

Large grins and chatter of excitement filled Prairie Aviation. Perhaps a few new pilots, airport managers, aerospace engineers, and designers are in the making!



## Plains Airport Recognized for Outstanding Achievement at Airports Conference



The Plains Airport was recognized for its outstanding achievement in acquiring land and constructing a new general aviation runway, apron, taxiways, and related aviation improvements at the FAA Northwest Mountain Region Airports Conference held in Seattle last month. The airport serves Sanders County, the Town of Plains, and surrounding communities. Pictured (left to right) Dave Stelling, Manager, Helena Airports District Office; Gary Gates, Civil Engineer/Community Planner, Helena Airports District Office; Rick Donaldson, Engineer, Robert Peccia & Associates; and Donna Taylor, Division Manager of the Northwest Mountain Region.

# Laurel Aviation and Technology Week - Fun For All!



*Third grade students from Graff Elementary School, Laurel, spend an hour with Jeanne MacPherson gaining knowledge of aviation and navigation concepts.*



*Everyone is a celebrity! Graff elementary students are collecting autographs from the presenters at Laurel Aviation and Technology Week.*



More than 8,000 students from across Montana and northern Wyoming attended the 7th Laurel Aviation and Technology Week held at Laurel schools and the Laurel and Billings airports May 7-10. This year's event was dedicated in memory of Denny Lynch and Marta Bohn-Meyer, friends of aviation education.

Jeanne MacPherson, of MDT Aeronautics Division, spent two days in the Laurel School classrooms with third, fourth and fifth grade students. Students learned compass headings, flight planning and navigation using the Montana aeronautical charts. The students were also introduced to the aerodynamics of lift and survival techniques.

The four-day event presented by the Laurel and Billings communities, NASA, the military, Montana state agencies and private companies included hundreds of displays and activities using aviation and technology.

The aircraft display was nothing short of world class, just to name a few; CH-53 Super Stallion, F-22 Raptor, F-15C, F-15 E, CH-47 Chinook, H-60 Blackhawk, C-130 Hercules, CH-46 Sea Knight, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-52-H, T-38, F-18 Hornet, H-65 Dolphin, PC-12, AH-64 Apache, and hot air balloons.

The event is truly a Montana original. For many students the flyovers were the best, or maybe it was the Army National Guard's climbing wall!

*"Hands on" activities for all ages, the Montana Army National Guard hosted a climbing wall for grades 9-12 High School students. The US Airforce had static displays and conducted flyovers in Laurel with the F-16 Fighting Falcon.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Glendive Airport has a 1970 Ford F-600 Snow Plow truck for sale. For further information phone (406) 687-3372.

Aviation Events (including Montana events) are listed on the following websites – check them out for a list of fun places to fly:

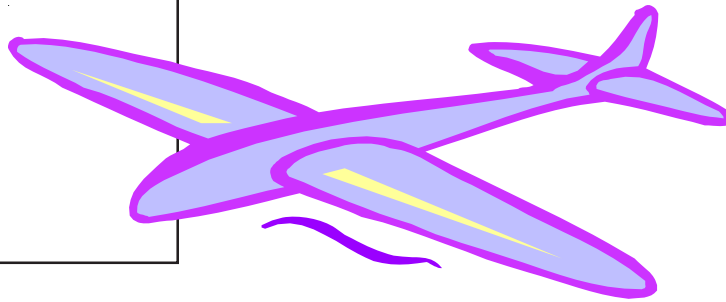
<http://www.barnstormers.com>

<http://www.aerovents.com>

<http://www.funplacestofly.com>

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 2,700 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,053. This includes \$700 for postage.

The engine is the heart of an aeroplane, but the pilot is its soul.  
- Sir Walter Raleigh



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